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Richard E. Rowe

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EXAMINER

SAGER, MARK ALAN

ART UNIT

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Rule 312 Communication	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/965,524	ROWE, RICHARD E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. A. Sager	3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 12/13/06 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

a) ☐ entered.

b) ☒ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.

c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.

Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.

d) ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.

e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.



M. A. Sager
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3712



Do NOT Enter *Wf* 9/13/06

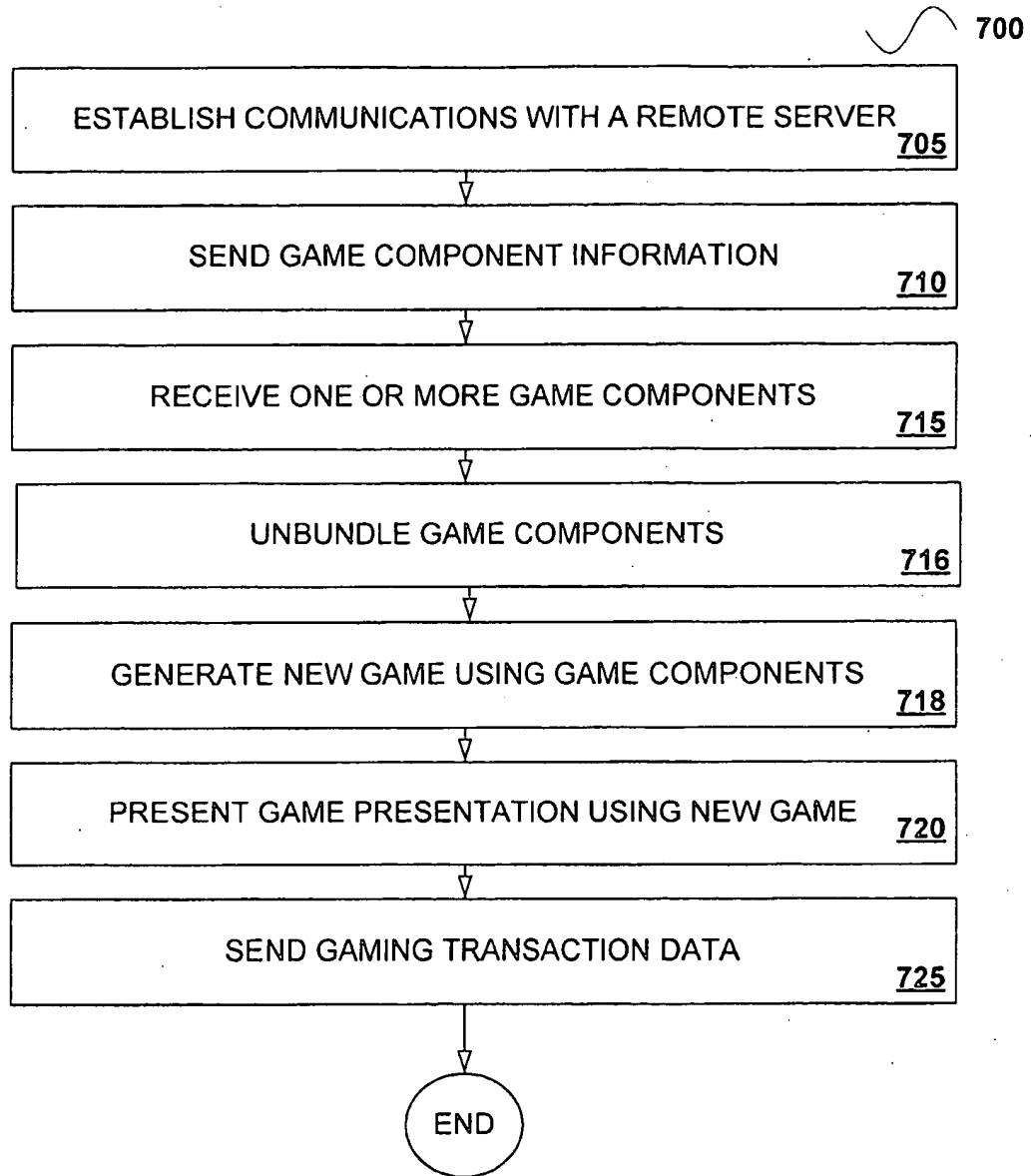


FIGURE 7

OK to enter *ML* 9/13/06



New Sheet

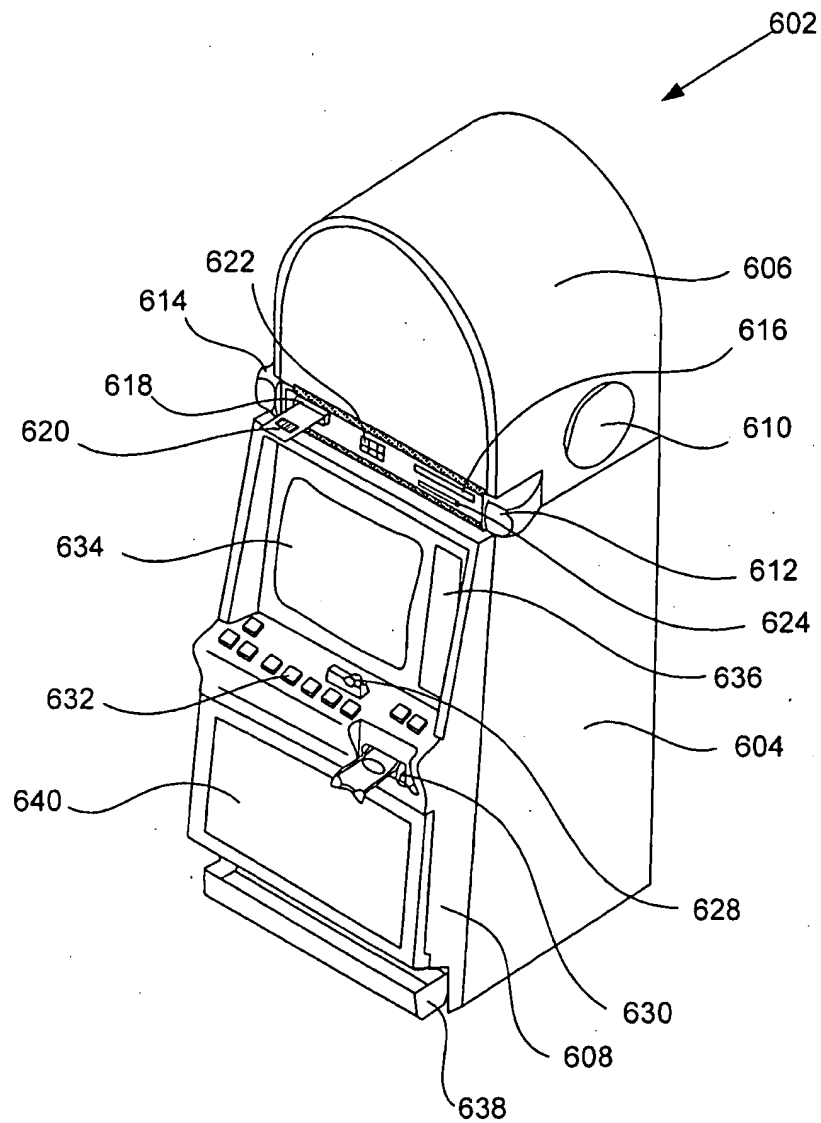


Figure 8A

OK to enter mfr 9/13/06



New Sheet

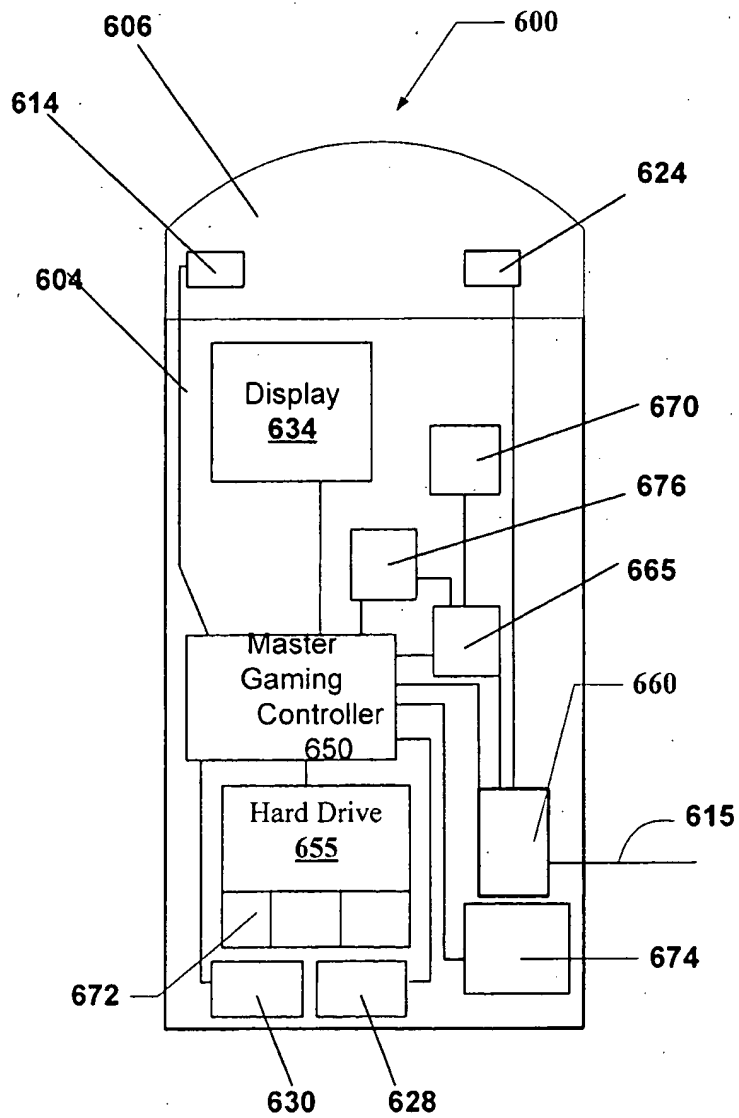


Figure 8B

OK to enter 7/12/28/06



Replacement Sheet

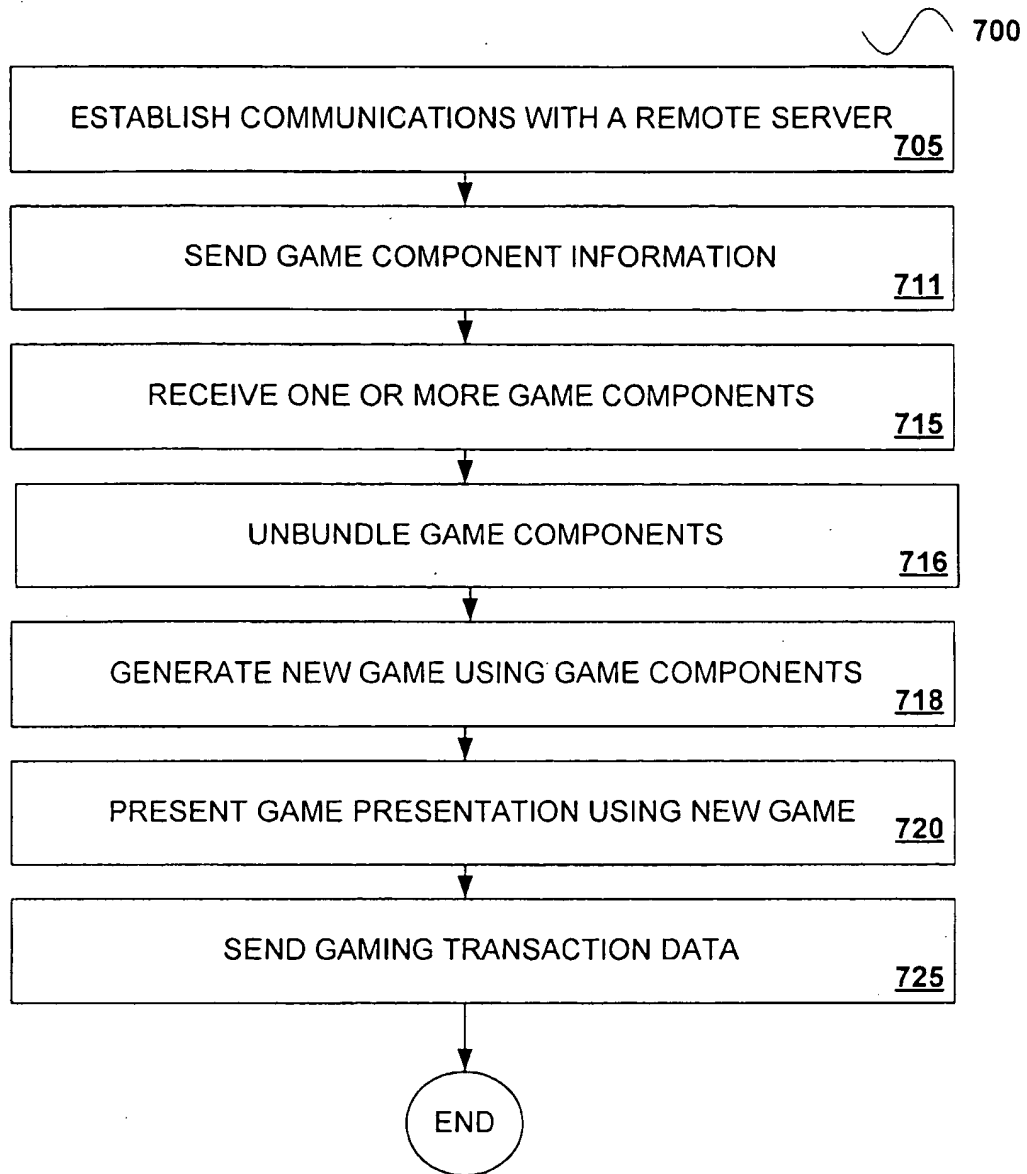


FIGURE 9

screened panel which may be used to add bonus features to the game being played on the gaming machine. As another example, the top box may contain a display for a progressive jackpot offered on the gaming machine. During a game, these devices are controlled and powered, in part, by circuitry (e.g. a master gaming controller) housed within the main cabinet 604 of the machine 602.

[0074] Understand that gaming machine 602 is but one example from a wide range of gaming machine designs on which the present invention may be implemented. For example, not all suitable gaming machines have top boxes or player tracking features. Further, some gaming machines have two or more game displays – mechanical and/or video. And, some gaming machines are designed for bar tables and have displays that face upwards. Those of skill in the art will understand that the present invention, as described below, can be deployed on most any gaming machine now available or hereafter developed.

[0075] Returning to the example of Figure ^{8A}~~6A~~, when a user wishes to play the gaming machine 602, he or she inserts cash through the coin acceptor 628 or bill validator 630.

Additionally, the bill validator may accept a printed ticket voucher which may be accepted by the bill validator 630 as an indicia of credit when a cashless ticketing system is used. At the start of the game, the player may enter playing tracking information using the card reader 624, the keypad 622, and the florescent display 616. Further, other game preferences of the player playing the game may be read from a card inserted into the card reader. During the game, the player views game information using the video display 634. Records of these transactions may be transmitted from the gaming machine 600 to a GTDR.

[0076] During the course of a game, a player may be required to make a number of decisions, which affect the outcome of the game. For example, a player may vary his or her wager on a particular game, select a prize for a particular game selected from a prize server,